

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ fluid detecting device according to claim 1, comprising:

a main path through which a fluid runs;

5 a plurality of branch paths, each of which: (i) comprises an opening end portion that is positioned in the vicinity of an inner wall surface of the main path so as to point to an upstream side of the main path, and (ii) causes part of a fluid flowing in the vicinity of the inner wall surface of the main path to run therethrough via the opening end portion; and

10 at least one thermal flow sensor that detects a flow of the fluid running through the branch paths;

wherein the opening end portions of said plurality of branch paths, which are pointed toward the upstream side of said main path, are arranged at regular intervals ~~along a path cross~~
15 ~~section of said main path around an axis of said main path in a cross-section of said main path.~~

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ fluid detecting device according to claim 1, comprising:

a main path through which a fluid runs;

5 a plurality of branch paths, each of which: (i) comprises an
opening end portion that is positioned in the vicinity of an
inner wall surface of the main path so as to point to a
downstream side of the main path, and (ii) causes fluid to flow
therethrough via the opening end portion into the vicinity of the
inner wall surface of the main path; and

10 at least one thermal flow sensor that detects a flow of the
fluid running through the branch paths;

 wherein the opening end portions of said plurality of branch paths, which are pointed toward the downstream side of said main path, are arranged at regular intervals ~~along a path cross~~
15 ~~section of said main path around the axis of said main path in a~~
~~cross-section of said main path.~~

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 2, wherein:

 the plurality of branch paths, ~~which comprise the~~ ~~whose~~
5 opening end portions ~~are~~ pointed toward the upstream side of said
main path ~~at respective first ends thereof, are connected coupled~~
to ~~the other end portions~~ ~~each other at second ends thereof~~ to
form one path; and

10 said thermal flow sensor is disposed in a portion where said plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form
 said one path [[,]] and detects a total flow rate of the fluids
 fluid running through the branch paths.

6. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 3, wherein:

5 the plurality of branch paths, which comprise the whose opening end portions are pointed toward the downstream side of
 said main path at respective first ends thereof, are connected
 coupled to the other end portions each other at second ends
 thereof to form one path; and

10 said thermal flow sensor is disposed in a portion where said plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form
 said one path [[,]] and detects the a total flow rate of the
 fluids fluid running through the branch paths.

7. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 5, wherein an end portion of the portion where the plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form said one path [[,]] is open toward the a surrounding environment of said main path.

8. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim [[1]] 2, further comprising [[:]] an auxiliary thermal flow sensor, which is positioned at a location that is disposed in a portion where said branch paths are not formed, and which detects a state of said fluid.

9. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 8, wherein said auxiliary thermal flow sensor is disposed in a fluid-pooling portion that communicates with said branch paths.

10. (Currently Amended) A fluid detecting device comprising:

a main path through which a fluid runs;

~~one or a plurality of branch paths at least one branch path,~~

5 each having of which: (i) comprises an inflow-side opening end portion pointed toward an upstream side of said main path and an outflow-side opening end portion pointed toward a downstream side of said main path which are formed in the vicinity of an inner wall surface of the main path, and causing (ii) causes part of a
10 fluid flowing in the vicinity of the inner wall surface of said main path to run therethrough via said inflow-side and outflow-side opening end portions; and

15 ~~a at least one thermal flow sensor that is disposed in said branch path and detects a flow of the fluid running through said branch path.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 10, wherein the fluid detecting device comprises a plurality of said branch paths, the inflow-side opening end portions and the respective outflow-side opening end portions in of said plurality of branch paths are arranged at regular intervals ~~along a path cross section of said main path around an axis of said main path in a cross-section of said main path, and the outflow-side opening end portions of said plurality of branch paths are arranged at regular intervals around the axis of said main path in a cross-section of said main path.~~

10
12. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 10, wherein the fluid detecting device comprises a plurality of said branch paths, and the inflow-side opening end portions and of the plurality of branch paths are approximately aligned with the respective outflow-side opening end portions ~~in said plurality of branch paths are roughly aligned in a path direction of said main path.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 11, wherein:

5 said plurality of branch paths ~~have~~ comprises: (i) a plurality of upstream-side branch paths provided with said
respective inflow-side opening end portions, respectively, (ii) a plurality of downstream-side branch paths provided with said
respective outflow-side opening end portions, respectively, and
10 (iii) a communicating portion, which is disposed between said plurality of upstream-side branch paths and said plurality of downstream-side branch paths, and which forms to form one path;
and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in the communicating portion ~~that forms said one path~~, and detects a total flow rate of the ~~fluids~~ fluid running through said branch paths.

14. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 13, wherein a path resistance of each of said branch paths is greater than a path resistance of said communicating portion.

15. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 10, further comprising an auxiliary thermal flow sensor, which is positioned at a location that is disposed

~~in a portion where said branch paths are not formed, and~~
which detects a state of said fluid.

16. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 15, wherein said auxiliary thermal flow sensor is disposed in a fluid-pooling portion that communicates with said branch paths.

17. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 2, wherein each of said branch paths comprises another end portion which is ~~are~~ open at the other end sides toward a surrounding environment of said main path.

18. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 3, wherein each of said branch paths comprises another end portion which is ~~are~~ open at the other end sides toward a surrounding environment of said main path.

19. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 6, wherein an end portion of ~~the portion where the plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form~~ said one path [], is open toward ~~the~~ a surrounding environment of said main path.

20. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 12, wherein:

5 said plurality of branch paths ~~have comprises:~~ (i) a plurality of upstream-side branch paths provided with said ~~respective~~ inflow-side opening end portions, respectively, (ii) a plurality of downstream-side branch paths provided with said ~~respective~~ outflow-side opening end portions, respectively, and (iii) a communicating portion, which is disposed between said plurality of upstream-side branch paths and said plurality of downstream-side 10 branch paths, and which forms to form one path; and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in the communicating portion ~~that forms said one path~~, and detects a total flow rate of the ~~fluids~~ fluid running through said branch paths.

21. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 20, wherein a path resistance of each of said branch paths is greater than a path resistance of said communicating portion.

22. (New) The fluid detecting device according to claim 3, further comprising an auxiliary thermal flow sensor, which is positioned at a location where said branch paths are not formed, and which detects a state of said fluid.